

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF
LANKARAN, AZERBAIJAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the city of Lankaran, Azerbaijan as a new sister city to a city in my district, Monterey, California.

Lankaran joins six other cities that have sister-city arrangements with Monterey. The other cities are: Tainan City, Taiwan; Nanao, Japan; Dubrovnik, Croatia; Trapani, Italy; Kusadasi, Turkey; and Lerida, Spain.

Lankaran, located on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea offers great potential for a thriving tourism industry for Azerbaijan. As a tourist mecca of its own Monterey can offer a great example of best practices in tourism of Lankaran.

I hope this new relationship will foster good will and friendship between two wonderful cities and two countries allied in peace.

HONORING MR. GLENN PETTINATO

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituents, Mr. Glenn Pettinato, on the occasion of his induction as President of UNICO National, the largest Italian-American service organization in the United States.

Since its founding in 1922, UNICO National has represented Italian-Americans across the country with pride and selflessness. Its foundations in charitable works, higher education, and patriotic deeds have taken UNICO from a fifteen-member group to nation-wide organization, with over 7,000 members in 140 local chapters across 19 states.

UNICO has continued to fight for the equal treatment of all Americans, including Italian-Americans and has worked tirelessly to promote its ideals of citizenship and civic duty.

As an Italian-American myself, I am honored to have the opportunity to offer my congratulations to a man who will faithfully serve UNICO as a leader who truly embodies its sentiment for unity, neighborliness, integrity, charity, and opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mr. Glenn Pettinato, and ask my colleagues to join in praising his commitment to community and country.

SOUTHERN KORDOFAN: ETHNIC
CLEANSING AND HUMANITARIAN
CRISIS IN SUDAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I called an emergency hearing yesterday because of the escalating crisis in the Sudanese state of Southern Kordofan. This crisis first arose in June of this year, shortly after the military forces of the Republic of the Sudan attacked the Abyei region, apparently as a provocation to South Sudan's Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, or SPLM. South Sudan was about to become independent, and these attacks may have been intended to provoke a fight that could derail their independence. At the same time, Sudanese attacks on SPLM-North members in the Sudanese state of Southern Kordofan were increasing.

Because of the fighting and the displacement of Sudanese and foreigners from Southern Kordofan, no one is estimating how many people have been killed in that area. We do know that more than 73,000 people have been displaced. Whatever the numbers involved, we can be sure that the suffering of the people in Southern Kordofan, especially the Nuba people, has been catastrophic.

This latest violence is a tragic resumption of a prior war by the Khartoum government on the Nuba. Beginning in the 1980s, Islamist elements in the North began an eradication campaign against the Nuba—pitting Northern Arabs against Africans to the South. Unfortunately for the Nuba, they are not Southerners, even though many fought with the Southern army during the North-South civil war. But neither are they accepted by the elements ruling the North, even though many of them are Muslims.

This left the Nuba on their own to suffer the onslaught of the Khartoum government. The strategy of cultural cleansing pursued by the government involved harsh attempts to depopulate vast areas, killing potential combatants, as well as many others, and herding survivors into tightly controlled government refugee camps. When jihad was declared by the Government of the Sudan in 1992, even Nuba Muslims were targeted, with the rationale that Muslims in SPLM areas were not true Muslims. Rape of Nuba women has been a central component of the government's strategy, aimed at destroying the social fabric of Nuba society. Almost every woman who has been in one of Khartoum's so-called "peace camps" reportedly was either raped or threatened with rape.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, between 30,000 and 40,000 people, out of a population of 60,000 in the Southern Kordofan capital of Kadugli have fled the town. Many of the attacks in Southern Kordofan were indiscriminate, including aerial bombardments and

artillery fire by the Sudanese Armed Forces. Bombings have been reported in five villages south of the state capital of Kadugli, as well as in Talodi, Heiban, Kaudo and other towns. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights told the UN Security Council on July 29th that there were reports, as recently as July 27th, of aerial bombings forcing civilians to flee into the Nuba Mountains.

Some are trying to down play the overwhelming responsibility of the Sudanese government for the devastation taking place in Southern Kordofan by referring to the refusal of the SPLM-North to lay down their arms to negotiate with Khartoum. But there is no moral equivalence between the SPLM-North's actions and those of the government. SPLM-North members are not bombing people indiscriminately, driving Arabs off their lands and out of their homes nor going door-to-door to identify their perceived enemies and execute them. The Government of Sudan's military forces are. We saw photographic evidence of these atrocities at yesterday's hearing.

In addition, the recent attacks on Southern Kordofan have disrupted the planting season and will have a long-term negative impact on the ability of its people to feed themselves. In parts of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, people suffer from drought made worse by conflict. In Southern Kordofan, the national government is creating a similar humanitarian crisis.

The death and destruction to which Sudanese Africans have been subjected was thought to have ended with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 to end the North-South civil war. However, the genocide in Darfur diverted the international community's attention away from the unresolved issues between North and South. These lingering points of contention threatened to derail independence for South Sudan just as the independence process was coming to a conclusion. And now the struggle over Abyei threatens to stifle the suffering cries and pleas for help that are arising from the Nuba people as they are dragged into a resumption of the Northern war against them.

We discussed this war during the Subcommittee's June 16th hearing on South Sudan. At that time, the fighting in Southern Kordofan was as horrific as any attacks waged by the Khartoum government. The testimony that was presented yesterday by witnesses who have seen the carnage revealed the horrific extent of this situation.

HYDROCEPHALUS TREATMENT IN
UGANDA: LEADING THE WAY TO
HELP CHILDREN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, I held a

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